

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
14 July 2005 (14.07.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/063638 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C03B 37/014**

(21) International Application Number:  
**PCT/EP2003/051102**

(22) International Filing Date:  
24 December 2003 (24.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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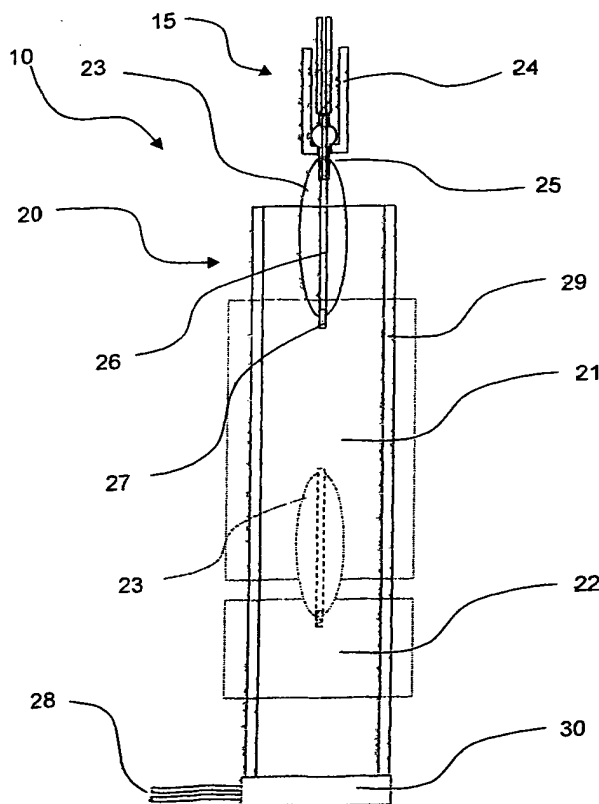
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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A LOW-ATTENUATION OPTICAL FIBER**



(57) Abstract: A process for producing a low-attenuation optical fiber comprises producing a soot core preform (23) by chemical deposition on a substrate; removing the substrate from the soot core preform (23), thereby forming a central hole (26) along the soot preform (23); drying and consolidating the soot core preform (23) in a consolidation furnace (20) to form a glass core preform (23); heating the glass preform (23) in the consolidation furnace (20) over a glass melting temperature to produce a reduction of the diameter of the central hole (26); and stretching the glass core preform (23) to completely close the central hole.



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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**Published:**

— *with international search report*